

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SAM-01

SAB-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 /093 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1463

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 52

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG.7: CEASEFIRE HOLDING POORLY;

CHRISTIAN ATTACK ICRC FOLE IN LEBANON; IRAQI INFILTRATION

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REF: BEIRUT 6827

1. SUMMARY: ALL HOPES FOR CEASEFWRE NOT YET VANISHED, AS KHOLI CONTINUES OPTIMISTIC. FIRST REPORTED EFFORT DEPLOY AL OBSERVATION POST UNSUCCESSFUL. QUADRIpartite MEETING DELAYED. CHRISTIANS MOPPING UP REMNANTS OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AT NABAA. ARTILLERY FIRE AND SOME GROUND ACTION ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT AREA. CHRISTIAN ATTACK IN NORTH REPELLED. ARTILLERY FIRE IN MOUNTAINS. RED CROSS TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION ENCOUNTERS NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES. RIGHTISTS MAKE BROADER POLITICAL ATTACK ON RED CROSS ROLE IN LEBANON. CHRISTIANS CHARGE IRAQI INFILTRATION AND MORE TO COME. LEBANESE POLITICOS CONTINUE JOCKEYING IN POSSIBLE ANTICIPATION OF LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOG. END SUMMARY.

2. CEASEFIRE. ARAB LEAGUE "CEASEFIRE NR.3" BEING HONORED MORE IN THE BREACH THAN THE OBSERVANCE. ARAB LEAGUE SPEAKS OF GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION. ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT SIGNED AUGUST 4 (BEIRUT 6814) ARAB LEAGUE SHOULD OCCUPY NUMBER OF OBSERVATION POSTS NOT LATER THAN 1500 LOCAL AUGUST 7. WE HAVE REPORT ON ONE SUCH EFFORT, IN SOUTH, WHERE AL SOUGHT ESTABLISH POST AT VILLAGE OF ROUM, BUT PREVENTED BY SYRIAN FORCES IN AREA. LEFTIST PRESS SAYS CHRISTIANS USING CEASEFIRE TO GAIN MILITARY ADVANTAGE, NOTABLY AT TELL ZAATAR AND NABAA, AND THAT THEY WILL NOT RESPECT CEASEFIRE UNTIL METN CAMPAIGN COMPLETED. ZARAB LEAGUE DEPUTY KHOLI CONTINUED ROUNDS IN BEIRUT AUGUST 6 AFTER RETURN FROM DAMASCUS, MEETING NUMBER OF KFOUR LEADEERS (INCLUDING PIERRE GEMAYEL), AS WELL AS KAMAL JUNBLATT, PERE MUBARRAK, GHASSAN TUEINI AND SAEB SALAM. HE SAID SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR PESSIMISM AND THAT PRINCIPAL PROBLEM FACING LEBANON NOW IS ISRAELI PENETRATION OF SOUTH LEBANON. HE SAID, "WE OUGHT TO WORK NOW FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE CEASEFIRE." HE REPORTEDLY TOLD KFOUR GROUP THAT RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE WAS ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARDS PEACE, AND KFOUR GROUP TOLD HIM THAT THIS POLICY OF "LITTLE STEPS" COULD NOT SUCCEED.

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3. QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE MEETING. SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE-LEBANESE MEETING, HWICH WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT SOFAR AUGUST 6, MIGHT MEET AUG 7 AT SHTURA, WITH SECOND MEETING AUG 8 AT SOFAR, ACCORDING TO LEFTIST RADIO. SPECULATION IS THAT SYRIANS SEEK DELAY PENDING SYRIAN GOVT REORGANIZATION. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS CHRISTIAN SIDE MAY BE SEEKING WEAKEN

COMMITTEE BY INSISTING THAT MODERATE LEBANESE LEADERSHIP ALSO BE REPRESENTED ON COMMITTEE (IN ADDITION TO THEMSELVES AND JUNBLATTISTS).

4. MILITARY SITUATION. ON GROUND, CHRISTIAN MOP-UP AT NABAA CONTINUED. THEY CLAIM ONLY SOME 40 FATAH MEMBERS CONTINUE TO RESIST, FROM ARMENIAN QUARTER OF BOURJ HAMMOUD, ARMENIANS REFUSE TO TURN THEM OVER TO CHRISTIAN FORCES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. L'ORIENT SAYS MORE THAN 300 KILLED AT NABAA IN LAST TWO DAYS; AL-MUHARRIR SAYS OVER 500. ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT AREA, FIGHTING ON GROUND, INCLUDING USE OF TRACKED VEHICLES, AT GALERIE SIMAAN, SHIYAH AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH, AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT, NOTABLY AT SIN EL-FIL, AZOUZ, SALOME, HORCH TABEL, DEKANOUHEH, RAWDA AND TELL ZAATAR. IN NORTH, CHRISTIAN FORCES OF "MARADA" BRIGADE ATTACKED IN AREA OF CARMELITES (THREE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TRIPOLI) WITH TANKS AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT BEGINNING EARLY AUGUST 6, BUT WERE THROWN BACK. PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST ARTILLERY FROM TRIPOLI FIRED ON CHRISTIAN-HELD CHEKKA. IN MOUNTAINS, FIGHTING ALONG ALEY-KAHLE-KOMATYE-BDEDOUN-HOUMAL-BSOUS LINE.

5. RED CROSS UNDER FIRE. THIRD RED CROSS EVACUATION OPERATION AT TELL ZAATAR AUG 6 ENCOUNTERED NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES, AND ANOTHER EVACUATION NOT PLANNED FOR NOW (SEE BEIRUT 6830). AL-MUHARRIR SAYS PALESTINIAN COMMAND HAS TOLD FIGHTERS STILL AT TELL ZAATAR THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE MURDERED ALL PALESTINIANS AT NABAA THAT THEY COULD FIND, AND THAT SAME FATE AWAITS THEM IF THEY SURRENDER. CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTIST RADIO CLAIMS MOST EVACUEES TO DATE HAVE NOT BEEN MOST SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND THAT CHRISTIANS WILL NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE. RIGHTISTS FIRED SOME 25 MORTAR ROUNDS AT BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AFTER RED CROSS PLANE LANDED THERE EARLY AFTERNOON OF AUG 6, BUT PLANE TOOK OFF WITHOUT DAMAGE. AIRPORT BOMBARDED AGAIN MORNING OF AUG 7 AND SOME MEA EMPLOYEES WOUNDED. RIGHTIST MILITARY SOURCE TELLS US CHRISTIANS CONVINCED THAT WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS HAVE INFILTRATED ICRC ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS AIDING PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS.

6. IRAQI INFILTRATION. RIGHTISTS CLAIM IRAQI REGULAR ARMY TROOPS BY NOW HAVE REACHED WEST BEIRUT VIA EGYPT AND TYRE, AND MORE ARE COMING. CHRISTIANS SAY

WILL MAKE PUBLIC AUG 7 RESULTS OF INTERROGATION OF TWO
IRAQIS CAPTURED AUG 5.

7. LEBANESE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING MAY YET BE CALLED BY FRANGIE
NEXT WEEK, ALTHOUGH HE DENOUNCES TWO OF THREE OF
KARAME'S CONDITIONS (SEPTTEL AUG 6) AS UNACCEPTABLE.
PIERRE GEMAYEL AND SAEB SALAM SCHEDULED TO MEET
AUG 7 IN WHAT RIGHTISTS DESCRIBE AS POSSIBLE START OF
LEBANESE-LEBANESE DIALOGUE. RAYMOND EDDE
WELCOMES SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD, BUT SAYS IT
SHOULD HAVE ADDRESSED QUESTION OF LEBANESE-SYRIAN
RELATIONS. HE ADVOCATES A "CEASEFIRE NUMBER FOUR."
TO PROVIDE FOR COMPLETE SYRIAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL
AND REGULAR FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
LEBANON AND SYRIA AS SIGNS THAT SYRIA DOES NOT
ENTERTAIN ANNEXATIONIST AMBITIONS IN THE BEKAA AND THE AKKAR.
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